



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
Forest Supervisor's Office
903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536

Grangeville Office 208-983-1950
Orofino Office 208-476-4541

File Code: 1950

Date: February 5, 2016

Dear Planning Participant,

Thank you for interest in the Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use (DRAMVU) project planning effort. As the Deciding Official, of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, I have prepared the **DRAMVU Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) and Draft Record of Decision (Draft ROD)**, based on public input and the analysis conducted by an interdisciplinary team.

The proposed decision, Alternative 5, as Modified, would designate motor vehicle use on roads and trails on the Nez Perce National Forest, and apply mitigation and monitoring. Alternative 5, as Modified, will designate 2,353 miles of open roads and trails for yearlong or seasonal motorized use. Routes open to motorized use will include 1,963 miles of road and 390 miles of trails. Use would be designated for several types of vehicles: all vehicles, vehicles less than 50 inches in width or motorcycles. Three new connector trails, proposed by the public will be added to the system. No areas will be designated for motorized use. No off-route motor vehicle use will be designated on the Forest, including retrieval of downed big game. Motorized access for dispersed camping will be allowed up to 300 feet from roads and 300 feet from trails, following specific conditions of use listed in the Draft ROD. In addition, 18 miles of road and 34 miles of trail would have 0 feet of motorized access for dispersed camping. Parking a motor vehicle within one vehicle length (including trailer) of a designated route is also permitted from the edge of the route surface. One project-specific Forest Plan Amendment will be completed (wildlife).

The DRAMVU Final EIS and Draft ROD, and other supporting information documents are available to review on-line at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=17752>. Paper or electronic copies of the Final EIS and Draft ROD are available upon request at the following Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests offices: Supervisors Office at 903 3rd Street, Kamiah, Idaho 83536; Grangeville office at 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530; Red River RD at 300 American River Road, Elk City, Idaho 83525; Salmon River RD at 304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, Idaho 83554; Moose Creek RD at 831 Selway Rd, Kooskia, Idaho 83539; Lochsa RD at 502 Lowry St, Kooskia, Idaho 83539; and Orofino Office at 12730 Highway 13, Orofino, Idaho 83544.

This decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218, subpart A and B.

How to file an Objection and Timeframes

Objections will be accepted only from individual and organizations who have previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed project during scoping or other opportunity for public comment (36 CFR 218.5(a)). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments within the scope of the proposed action and have a direct relationship to the proposed action and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider them (36 CFR 218.2).



The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)): *1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number if available; 2) signature or other verification of authorship upon request; 3) when multiple names are listed on the objection, identification of the lead objector; 4) the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented; 5) a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and 6) a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity for comment.* All objections will be open to public inspection during the objection process (36 CFR 218.8).

A written objection must be filed by way of regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, or express delivery to the Objection Reviewing Officer.

Mailing Address:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
P. O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Hand Delivery or Express Delivery.

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana, 859804

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered or express delivery objections are: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

An objection can be faxed to (406) 329-3411.

Electronic objections must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer via e-mail to: appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us with "**DRAMVU Project Objection**" in the subject line. Electronic submissions must be in a format that is readable with optical character recognition software (e.g. Word, PDF, Rich Text) and be searchable. An automated response will confirm the sender's electronic objection has been received and acknowledge the agencies confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of the legal notice in the *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, the newspaper of record. Attachments received after the 45-day objection period will not be considered. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object to this project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR §218.9.

If no objection is received, implementation of this Decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the objection filing period. If an objection is received, informal resolution meetings and/or conference calls between the reviewing officer and the objector may

occur prior to the issuance of the reviewing officer's written response to the objector. Resolution meetings with the objector(s) will be scheduled by the reviewing officer. The responsible official should participate in this meeting. All such meetings are open to the public. If anyone is interested in attending any informal resolution discussions, please contact the responsible official or monitor the project website listed above, for scheduled times for objection resolution meetings, if any.

The reviewing officer must issue a written response to the objector(s) concerning their objection(s) within 45 days following the end of the objection filing period. A written response to the objection must set forth the reasons for the response, but need not be a point-by-point response and may contain instructions to the responsible official. Objections may be consolidated by the reviewing officer when issuing responses.

Additional information can be obtained from: Jennie Fischer, Project Team Leader, phone (208) 983-4048, at the Grangeville office.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,



CHERYL F. PROBERT
Forest Supervisor

